

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Release Date:
August 5, 2021

Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

District Court, ABA Host First Annual Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute in Honor of Late Judge

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, along with the American Bar Association (ABA), hosted the first annual Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute on July 29 and August 5, 2021.

“Our children are our future. This Court is honored to welcome the teachers who prepare them to lead the nation forward. And we are pleased to offer this program to support their work through classroom instruction and experiential opportunities relating to the rule of law, the U.S. Constitution, and the judicial system,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Over two days of lectures and small group discussions, participants explored the right to assemble and associate under the First Amendment, what these rights mean in action, and how courts have interpreted them over time. The participating teachers engaged with University of California-Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Court of Appeals Judge Diane P. Wood, District Court Judge John Z. Lee, and Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes as they explored how to effectively incorporate the First Amendment into their classroom curriculum.

“Judge Grady led a life devoted to the law, this Court, and the United States. The Teachers Institute, which aims to illuminate the critical role of the judiciary in our government, is a fitting way to honor his life and career,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

In 2020, Judge Grady’s former law clerks established, in the late judge’s honor, the Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute and Student Court Field Trip Scholarship, an experiential learning program for students, to be jointly administered with the ABA. Other future programming will include student field trips to the courthouse.

Judge Grady was nominated to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, by President Gerald R. Ford on October 20, 1975. He was sworn in on November 21, 1975 and served as the Court’s chief judge from July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1990. He took senior status on May 23,

1994 through January 30, 2015. Judge Grady passed away on December 2, 2019 at the age of 90.

The virtual [Teachers Institute](#) was open to all kindergarten through 12th grade teachers.

##